



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS BULLETIN

April 1991

CALIFORNIA DECEMBER 1990

This bulletin covers 26 agricultural industries, organized into five data tables: Wage and Salary Workers (Table 1), Agricultural Production Workers (Table 2), Average Weekly Earnings of Production Workers (Table 3), Average Hours Worked by Production Workers (Table 4), and Average Hourly Earnings of Production Workers (Table 5).

The total employment of 304,700 in agriculture for December 1990 (Table 1) was three percent below the November 1990 level, and down seven percent from a year ago. The seasonal November to December decline in employment was concentrated in Vegetables and Melons, Berries, and in Crop Preparation Services for Market. These reductions were partially offset by an increase in employees working for Farm Labor Contractors.

Most of the November to December employment decline in Vegetables and Melons and in Berries was in the Central Coast Region.

Compared to a year ago, agricultural employment was down 21,600 from the December 1989 level of 326,300. Farm Labor Contractors and Grapes together accounted for just over half of the decline. The remainder was spread throughout the crop-producing industries.

The number of agricultural production workers (Table 2) fell by one percent between November and December 1990. The largest drop was in the Berries industry, where 4,100 fewer workers were needed.

Average weekly earnings for agricultural production workers (Table 3) were \$255.31 in December, down from \$270.10 in November. The December average weekly earnings dropped about \$10 in crop production, rose almost \$15 in livestock, and fell over \$26 in agricultural services.

The average hours worked by agricultural production workers (Table 4) were 39.4 in December, down 1.9 hours from November. Average hours worked in crops were off by 1.5 hours; livestock rose by 0.5 hours and the agricultural services figure was 2.7 hours less.

Average hourly earnings for agricultural production workers (Table 5) fell six cents between November and December. The December average in the crops industries was down two cents, in the livestock industries the average rose by 23 cents, and the services industries were down 26 cents. December average hourly earnings ranged from a low of \$5.35 in Deciduous Tree Fruits to a high of \$10.33 in Soil Preparation Services.

DATA SOURCES:

The data are obtained from two sources: the Employment Development Department (EDD) Unemployment Insurance (UI) files and a monthly survey of 4,000 agricultural employers. This sample, about 10%, was selected to be statistically representative of the state's agricultural employers by size, geographic location and industry categories.

Sample data are gathered for the week that includes the 12th calendar day of the month; thus all data in these bulletins represent activities taking place during this mid-month period. Since the full employer sample was not complete prior to October 1990, the data for production workers employment, earnings and hours are not yet available for year-over comparisons.

Data for the six regions of the state will be published in the January 1991 issue. This will allow for inter-regional comparisons of employment and earnings.

DATA COMMENTS:

To aid in accurate usage and interpretation of the data, please note the following:

- Employment data do not include employers or unpaid family workers.
- Wage and salary workers are all employees receiving compensation from the employer.
- Production workers are employees engaged in commodity production. Excluded are managers and supervisors, as well as office, sales and other staff not involved in production.
- Average hours and earnings are based on full-time and part-time production worker data.
- Average weekly earnings include overtime pay and premium wages. These are gross earnings before deductions and exclude the value of housing and meals.
- It is important to note that average hourly earnings are not hourly wage rates; they are gross earnings of production workers divided by total hours for production workers.
- Figures for the current month are preliminary and subject to revision.
- The total agricultural employment estimates in this bulletin are derived from a new monthly sampling project: the Current Employment Statistics for Agriculture. Therefore, estimates in this bulletin will differ from other agricultural estimates published by this department because of differences in the number of agricultural industries covered, and in the definition of workers.

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TABLE 1
WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS IN AGRICULTURAL ESTABLISHMENTS
CALIFORNIA
(IN THOUSANDS)

INDUSTRY	DEC 1990	NOV 1990	DEC 1989
TOTAL AGRICULTURAL	309.7	312.9	326.3
TOTAL FIELD CROPS	170.4	173.3	178.0
TOTAL CASH GRAIN	2.5	2.9	2.9
RICE	1.3	1.6	1.5
OTHER CASH GRAIN	1.2	0.8	0.9
FIELD CROPS EXCEPT CASH GRAIN	9.9	11.4	10.1
COTTON	5.7	6.6	6.0
OTHER FIELD CROPS	4.2	3.9	3.4
VEGETABLES AND MELONS	29.5	32.3	28.6
TOTAL FRUIT AND TREE NUTS	64.9	60.5	72.6
BERRIES	5.0	9.0	5.8
GRAPES	26.1	19.1	30.3
TREE NUTS	6.8	7.7	7.5
CITRUS FRUITS	6.0	5.5	6.4
DECIDUOUS TREE FRUIT	10.5	10.4	12.2
OTHER FRUITS AND NUTS	10.5	8.8	10.4
TOTAL HORTICULTURAL SPECIALTIES	34.3	33.6	35.9
ORNAMENTAL FLORAL & NURS PRD	31.4	30.5	32.7
FOOD CROPS GROWN UNDR COVER	2.9	3.1	3.2
GENERAL FARM PRIMARILY CROP	29.3	32.6	27.9
TOTAL AGRIC. PROD. LIVESTOCK	26.9	26.9	27.6
BEEF CATTLE FEED LOTS	0.8	0.8	1.1
BEEF CATTLE EXCEPT FEED LOTS	3.8	3.9	4.1
DAIRY FARMS	12.3	12.3	12.4
CHICKEN EGGS	3.4	3.4	3.4
TURKEYS & TURKEY EGGS	1.4	1.4	1.4
OTHER LIVESTOCK	5.2	0.9	1.0
TOTAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICES	112.4	112.7	120.7
SOIL PREPARATION SERVICES	1.0	1.1	1.0
CROP SERVICES	38.5	45.3	38.6
CROP PLANT-CULT-PROTECTION	3.5	4.2	4.3
CROP HARVEST PRIM. MACHINE	7.2	9.1	7.4
CROP PREP. SERV. FOR MARKET	26.1	29.0	25.3
TOTAL FARM LABOR & MANAGEMENT	72.9	66.3	81.1
FARM LABOR CONTRACTORS	66.0	59.2	73.6
FARM MANAGEMENT SERVICES	6.9	7.1	7.5

TABLE 2
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION WORKERS,
CALIFORNIA (IN THOUSANDS)

INDUSTRY	DEC 1990	NOV 1990
TOTAL AGRICULTURAL	266.6	265.1
TOTAL FIELD CROPS	144.7	147.3
TOTAL CASH GRAIN	2.0	2.5
RICE	1.0	1.3
OTHER CASH GRAIN	1.0	0.7
FIELD CROPS EXCEPT CASH GRAIN	8.8	10.2
COTTON	5.2	6.1
OTHER FIELD CROPS	3.6	3.3
VEGETABLES AND MELONS	26.6	29.5
TOTAL FRUIT AND TREE NUTS	57.0	53.1
BERRIES	4.7	8.8
GRAPES	23.2	16.5
TREE NUTS	5.7	6.7
CITRUS FRUITS	5.4	5.1
DECIDUOUS TREE FRUIT	8.5	8.2
OTHER FRUITS AND NUTS	9.5	7.8
TOTAL HORTICULTURAL SPECIALTIES	26.8	26.1
ORNAMENTAL FLORAL & NURS PRD	24.6	23.7
FOOD CROPS GROWN UNDR COVER	2.2	2.4
GENERAL FARM PRIMARILY CROP	23.5	25.9
TOTAL AGRIC. PROD. LIVESTOCK	23.1	22.9
BEEF CATTLE FEED LOTS	0.7	0.7
BEEF CATTLE EXCEPT FEED LOTS	3.1	3.1
DAIRY FARMS	11.5	11.6
CHICKEN EGGS	2.4	2.4
TURKEYS & TURKEY EGGS	0.9	0.9
OTHER LIVESTOCK	4.5	0.8
TOTAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICES	98.8	94.9
SOIL PREPARATION SERVICES	0.8	0.8
CROP SERVICES	27.9	31.3
CROP PLANT-CULT-PROTECTION	2.7	3.3
CROP HARVEST PRIM. MACHINE	6.0	7.8
CROP PREP. SERV. FOR MARKET	17.9	17.7
TOTAL FARM LABOR & MANAGEMENT	70.1	62.8
FARM LABOR CONTRACTORS	64.4	57.2
FARM MANAGEMENT SERVICES	5.7	5.6

TABLE 3
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS,
CALIFORNIA (IN DOLLARS PER WEEK)

INDUSTRY	DEC 1990	NOV 1990
TOTAL AGRICULTURAL	255.31	270.10
TOTAL FIELD CROPS	265.37	275.85
TOTAL CASH GRAIN	299.48	297.50
RICE	313.49	287.12
OTHER CASH GRAIN	287.37	336.65
FIELD CROPS EXCEPT CASH GRAIN	291.85	300.51
COTTON	291.29	285.35
OTHER FIELD CROPS	292.76	341.74
VEGETABLES AND MELONS	308.88	322.94
TOTAL FRUIT AND TREE NUTS	229.58	237.84
BERRIES	198.10	249.33
GRAPES	232.71	236.06
TREE NUTS	235.25	236.32
CITRUS FRUITS	258.37	262.13
DECIDUOUS TREE FRUIT	207.05	218.04
OTHER FRUITS AND NUTS	239.25	234.95
TOTAL HORTICULTURAL SPECIALTIES	286.23	289.08
ORNAMENTAL FLORAL & NURS PRD	280.12	285.25
FOOD CROPS GROWN UNDR COVER	353.12	326.14
GENERAL FARM PRIMARILY CROP	269.03	275.10
TOTAL AGRIC. PROD. LIVESTOCK	352.10	337.40
BEEF CATTLE FEED LOTS	373.47	364.22
BEEF CATTLE EXCEPT FEED LOTS	312.19	293.41
DAIRY FARMS	384.71	370.17
CHICKEN EGGS	271.12	278.54
TURKEYS & TURKEY EGGS	321.82	329.35
OTHER LIVESTOCK	343.57	372.00
TOTAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICES	217.46	244.20
SOIL PREPARATION SERVICES	627.03	634.06
CROP SERVICES	246.72	280.98
CROP PLANT-CULT-PROTECTION	241.19	258.69
CROP HARVEST PRIM. MACHINE	234.22	271.82
CROP PREP. SERV. FOR MARKET	247.01	267.24
TOTAL FARM LABOR & MANAGEMENT	201.35	220.98
FARM LABOR CONTRACTORS	197.23	219.59
FARM MANAGEMENT SERVICES	247.32	237.65

TABLE 4
AVERAGE HOURS WORKED BY PRODUCTION WORKERS,
CALIFORNIA (IN HOURS PER WEEK)

INDUSTRY	DEC 1990	NOV 1990
TOTAL AGRICULTURAL	39.4	41.3
TOTAL FIELD CROPS	41.4	42.9
TOTAL CASH GRAIN	44.9	42.5
RICE	43.3	40.1
OTHER CASH GRAIN	46.5	53.1
FIELD CROPS EXCEPT CASH GRAIN	44.9	47.7
COTTON	45.8	47.4
OTHER FIELD CROPS	43.5	49.1
VEGETABLES AND MELONS	44.0	46.4
TOTAL FRUIT AND TREE NUTS	38.2	38.8
BERRIES	31.9	38.3
GRAPES	37.9	37.0
TREE NUTS	40.7	41.9
CITRUS FRUITS	35.2	38.1
DECIDUOUS TREE FRUIT	38.7	39.5
OTHER FRUITS AND NUTS	41.9	40.3
TOTAL HORTICULTURAL SPECIALTIES	43.5	44.0
ORNAMENTAL FLORAL & NURS PRD	43.7	44.5
FOOD CROPS GROWN UNDR COVER	41.3	39.2
GENERAL FARM PRIMARILY CROP	42.5	44.3
TOTAL AGRIC. PROD. LIVESTOCK	48.7	48.2
BEEF CATTLE FEED LOTS	56.5	54.2
BEEF CATTLE EXCEPT FEED LOTS	43.3	41.5
DAIRY FARMS	52.2	50.5
CHICKEN EGGS	44.3	46.5
TURKEYS & TURKEY EGGS	55.2	54.8
OTHER LIVESTOCK	43.6	48.5
TOTAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICES	34.3	37.0
SOIL PREPARATION SERVICES	60.7	60.1
CROP SERVICES	37.1	40.9
CROP PLANT-CULT-PROTECTION	40.4	42.2
CROP HARVEST PRIM. MACHINE	33.7	37.7
CROP PREP. SERV. FOR MARKET	37.2	39.3
TOTAL FARM LABOR & MANAGEMENT	32.9	34.8
FARM LABOR CONTRACTORS	32.6	34.8
FARM MANAGEMENT SERVICES	36.0	35.0

TABLE 5
AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS,
CALIFORNIA
(IN DOLLARS PER HOUR)

INDUSTRY	DEC 1990	NOV 1990
TOTAL AGRICULTURAL	6.48	6.54
TOTAL FIELD CROPS	6.41	6.43
TOTAL CASH GRAIN	6.67	7.00
RICE	7.24	7.16
OTHER CASH GRAIN	6.18	6.34
FIELD CROPS EXCEPT CASH GRAIN	6.50	6.30
COTTON	6.36	6.02
OTHER FIELD CROPS	6.73	6.96
VEGETABLES AND MELONS	7.02	6.96
TOTAL FRUIT AND TREE NUTS	6.01	6.13
BERRIES	6.21	6.51
GRAPES	6.14	6.38
TREE NUTS	5.78	5.64
CITRUS FRUITS	7.34	6.88
DECIDUOUS TREE FRUIT	5.35	5.52
OTHER FRUITS AND NUTS	5.71	5.83
TOTAL HORTICULTURAL SPECIALTIES	6.58	6.57
ORNAMENTAL FLORAL & NURS PRD	6.41	6.41
FOOD CROPS GROWN UNDR COVER	8.55	8.32
GENERAL FARM PRIMARILY CROP	6.33	6.21
TOTAL AGRIC. PROD. LIVESTOCK	7.23	7.00
BEEF CATTLE FEED LOTS	6.61	6.72
BEEF CATTLE EXCEPT FEED LOTS	7.21	7.07
DAIRY FARMS	7.37	7.33
CHICKEN EGGS	6.12	5.99
TURKEYS & TURKEY EGGS	5.83	6.01
OTHER LIVESTOCK	7.88	7.67
TOTAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICES	6.34	6.60
SOIL PREPARATION SERVICES	10.33	10.55
CROP SERVICES	6.65	6.87
CROP PLANT-CULT-PROTECTION	5.97	6.13
CROP HARVEST PRIM. MACHINE	6.95	7.21
CROP PREP. SERV. FOR MARKET	6.64	6.80
TOTAL FARM LABOR & MANAGEMENT	6.12	6.35
FARM LABOR CONTRACTORS	6.05	6.31
FARM MANAGEMENT SERVICES	6.87	6.79